

## MedNOW Clinics, Inc. Chronic Pain Protocol

MedNOW Clinics realizes that many patients suffer from chronic pain due to illness and previous injuries. We want to help our patients manage and control pain, and this protocol outlines our management of chronic pain.

1. Patients may present to our clinic indicating that there is a chronic illness or a previous injury that causes chronic pain. It is mandatory that the patient provide our clinic and providers with documentation that supports the diagnosis or previous injury. This may include medical records from previous providers or diagnostic imaging studies. Medical records from previous providers are acceptable only if the notes provide evidence of a prior work up and evaluation of the diagnosis. Medical records from a provider that only reveal prescription of pain medications and no evaluation are not acceptable.
2. The Medical Practice Act in the State of Colorado (12-36-117, (1.5)(a)(b)) mandates that a patient have an evaluation by his or her treating physician **AND** a specialist provider in the specialty of the diagnosis. The specialist must outline or agree with the treatment plan. A patient will have 30 (thirty) days to provide us with a specialist evaluation, after which time narcotic pain medication will no longer be prescribed.

If the patient is unable to provide notes from a specialist with an identified treatment plan, the patient will need to be newly evaluated by a specialist and MedNOW will need to review the evaluation notes and treatment plan notes.

3. If narcotic pain medications are to be used for the treatment of chronic pain, MedNOW only uses long-acting narcotic pain medications. No short-acting narcotics will be prescribed for chronic pain. If a patient complains of “breakthrough” pain, this means that the long-acting pain medication dose needs to be adjusted.
4. Patients with chronic pain are required to sign our Controlled Substances Contract.
5. MedNOW Clinics will perform a toxicology evaluation on every patient with chronic pain at every visit and will consult with the Colorado Prescription Drug Medication Program (PDMP). Any patient who is requesting narcotic pain medication who is found to be using narcotic pain medication or other controlled substances not prescribed by our clinic and who fails to notify us in advance of these prescriptions, will likely not be prescribed further controlled substances from our clinics. Any patient found to be using illicit substances such as heroin, methamphetamines or cocaine, or any other illicit substance, is subject to be dismissed from our chronic pain program.